



HQ Air Force Personnel  
Center



**Air Force  
Disability  
Evaluation  
System**

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# Overview

**AFPC**



- Background
- DES Structure
- Disability Recommendations
- Process
- Statistics
- Key Concepts

# Background



- Purpose of Disability Evaluation System
  - Maintain a fit and vital force
  - Remove unfit due to physical disability
  - Ensure fair compensation
- Statutory Basis Chapter 61 Title 10 USC
  - Applies to all Armed Forces
  - Applies to all grades, active and reserve
  - DoDD 1332.18 & AFI 36-3212

# Background

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- Eligibility For Disability Compensation
  - Unable to perform duties of office, grade, rank or rating due to disease or injury incurred or aggravated while entitled to basic pay

**AND**

- Disability is permanent
- Not the result of misconduct or AWOL

# DES Structure



- Medical Treatment Facility (MTF)
  - Medical Evaluation Board (MEB)
  - Physical Eval Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO)
- Air Force Personnel Center
  - Medical Standards Branch (DPAMM)
  - Physical Disability Division (DPPD)
    - Disability Operations Branch
    - Informal Physical Evaluation Board (IPEB)
    - Formal Physical Evaluation Board (FPEB)

# DES Structure

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- Air Force Personnel Council
  - Air Force Personnel Board (AFPB)
- Military Personnel Flight

# Disposition Recommendations



- Return to duty -- FIT
  - Cannot appeal if FIT
- Discharge without severance pay
  - Unfit & EPTS or misconduct
- Discharge with severance pay
  - Unfit & 20% or less disability
- Permanent Retirement
  - Unfit, condition stable, & 20+ years or greater than a 30% disability

# Disposition Recommendations



- Temp Disab Retire List (TDRL)
  - Unfit, condition unstable, & 20+ years or greater than a 30% disability
  - New MEB every 18 months until 5 years
  - TDRL case has same disposition recommendation as other cases
  - Except can also appeal a FIT finding

# Disposition Recommendations

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- If unfit, member may
  - Concur
  - Non-concur with/without written rebuttal
  
- All cases finalized by Director, AF Personnel Council or Special Assistant

# Process - IPEB

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- Randolph AFB -- 3 Member Board
  - 1 Personnel Officer and 2 Doctors (O5/O6)
  - Reserve Officer for Reserve/Guard Cases
- Documentation Review
  - MEB Results
  - Accession physical
  - Other data
  - **CC Letter**

# Process - FPEB



- Lackland AFB -- 3 Member Board
  - 2 Personnel Officers and 1 Doctor (O5/O6)
  - Reserve Officer for Reserve/Guard Cases
- Full & Fair Hearing IAW Title 10 USC
  - Representation by counsel
  - Appear in person
  - Present evidence
  - Call witnesses

# Process - FPEB



## ☐ Key Points

- ☐ JAGs available -- like local ADC
- ☐ Member TDY -- 3-day prep time
- ☐ Consider IPEB, full medical record, testimony & evidence
- ☐ Medical consults available
- ☐ Audio & video recorded
- ☐ Immediate feedback to member

# Process - Personnel Council

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- Dir, AF Personnel Council acts for SECAF
  
- AF Personnel Board
  - 5 voting members, at least 1 doctor
  - Documentation review
  - Disposition options & administrative discharge
  - Case finalized

# Process – BCMR

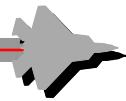
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- Appeal outside AF channels
- Board is all civilians
- BCMR like Supreme Court
  - Documentation review
  - Governed by AFI 36-2603
  - Use DD Form 149
- Case really finalized

# PEB Statistics

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<b>FY</b>	<b>ACTIVE</b>	<b>TDRL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
94	4566	980	5546
95	3263	855	4118
96	3464	939	4403
97	3066	979	4045
98	2954	833	3787
99	3479	698	4177
00	3243	521	3764
01	3168	362	3530
02	3811	471	4282

# Types of Disabilities FY02

(Oct 01 - Sep 02)

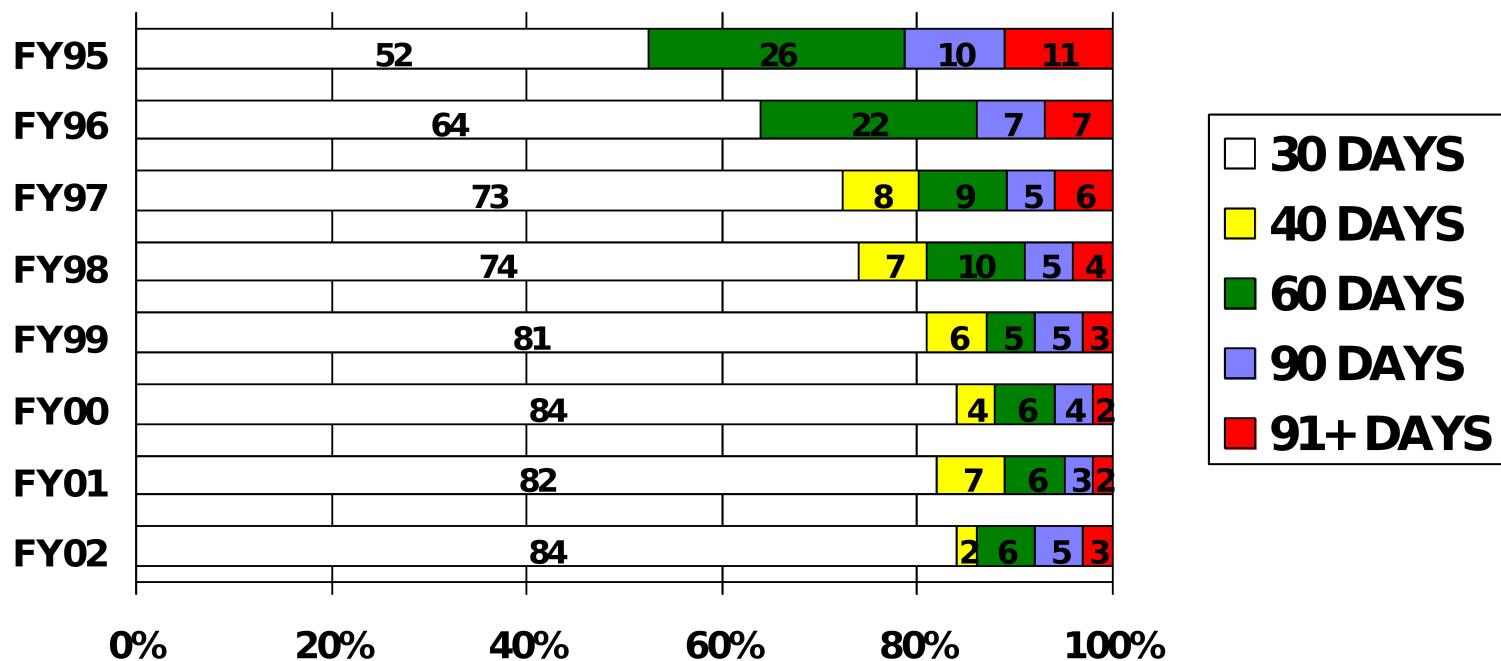
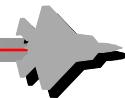
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- Orthopedic 23%
- Asthma (all respiratory) 20%
- Psychological 13%
- Neurological (including seizures) 10%
- Heart 7%
- Diabetes 6%

# USAF PEB Timeliness

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# Key Concepts

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- **Unsuiting Conditions**
- Certain conditions and defects of a developmental nature designated by the SECDEF do not constitute a physical disability and are not ratable in the absence of an underlying causative disorder

# Key Concepts

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- Examples
  - Adjustment Disorder
  - Personality Disorder
  - Incapacitating Fear of Flying
  - Immunological intolerance
  - Sleepwalking
  - Others (alcoholism, dyslexia, mental retardation)

# Key Concepts

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- Presumption of Fitness
  - We compensate members whose career we cut short due to a disability
- Proximate Result
  - Title 10 USC
  - Members on orders of 30 days or less
  - Disability must have been caused by service

# Key Concepts

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- USAF versus Veterans Administration
  - Title 10 vs. Title 38
  - Unfit vs. Service-connected
  - Snapshot vs. updates
  - Compensation computation

# Key Concepts

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- EPTS
  - Not used after 8 years of service
- Special reviews and Recalls
- Doc & SQ/CC coordination
  - Watch profiles

# Key Concepts

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- Timeline
  - Expeditoriously remove unfit member
  - Average PEB 14 days
  - Gone in 20/30 days plus 20/30 PTDY
  - MUST sell leave time (up to 60 days)
  - See Transition Assistance Office ASAP

# Summation

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- Disability recommendations
- Process
- Statistics
- Key Concepts